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U. S. GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS
AS SOURCES OF INFORMATION
FOR STUDENTS OF HOME
ECONOMICS.

Compliments —

By C. F. LANGWORTHY.

[Reprinted from *The Journal of Home Economics*, June, 1909]

U. S. GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS AS SOURCES
OF INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS OF
HOME ECONOMICS.

C. F. LANGWORTHY,

U. S. Department of Agriculture.

It is safe to say that very few persons realize the extent and variety of the publications which are issued by the different branches of the United States General Government, or have any adequate idea of the large amount of valuable data upon a wide range of topics included in these publications.

From time to time special lists of U. S. Government documents have appeared, and at the present time full lists and indexes of current publications are issued. It is to be regretted, however, that there are no entirely adequate indexes of the earlier publications of Government documents as a whole.

In 1885 Poore's Descriptive Catalogue of the Government Publications of the United States, September 5, 1774, to March 4, 1881, was published. The volume contains titles of publications arranged chronologically and an author and subject index. Though this work is of very great interest and value the material included is to some extent selected and the classification naturally makes no special effort to include Home Economics topics as the subject has been developed very largely since this work was undertaken.

The Comprehensive Index to the Publications of the United States Government, 1881-1893, by Ames, which was published in 1905, is essentially a continuation of Poore's Index, though the method of arranging the material alphabetically makes it much more useful.

In 1902 the Superintendent of Documents published Tables of and Annotated Index to the Congressional Series of United States Public Documents, which is a valuable and useful check list of Government documents. To a certain extent the material included is selected. This publication was followed by the Document Catalogue referred to later.

The fact that the Government documents are so numerous and so varied in their subject-matter makes it difficult for librarians or

individuals to classify and arrange the publications in such a way that the contents are easily made known and accessible, and doubtless this is one reason why they are not more generally consulted as works of reference. Another reason which has been suggested for a lack of appreciation of Government documents is the fact that for many years they were very generally distributed free of cost and it seems to be a failing of human nature to consider that anything which is given away cannot have very much value. Within recent years there has been a decided change of policy and a great variety of publications are now sold.

With a few exceptions U. S. Government documents of all kinds are published at the Government Printing Office in Washington. The list of documents includes a wide variety, ranging from the Congressional Record which appears daily and records in detail all business carried on by both Houses of Congress, to special bulletins, annual reports, periodicals, and many other kinds of publications. These documents are prepared by the different departments of the General Government, by Congress, by special commissions, and in other ways, and when ready for publication are submitted in due form to the Public Printer who is the head of the Government Printing Office and may be termed the Government Publisher.

With the exception of certain series of popular bulletins and other publications of general interest the Government publications are intended for sale. The price asked is merely sufficient to cover the cost of publication. In this respect the United States follows a plan adopted by a number of other nations. Thus, the so-called "Bluebooks" and other public documents of Great Britain are with few exceptions sold and not distributed gratis. There is this difference, however, that in Great Britain the sale of Government publications is in the hands of private firms designated for the purpose, whereas in the United States a public official, the Superintendent of Documents, supervises the storage and sale of public documents.

The United States Government is unusually generous in that the price of documents is so low that they are really within the reach of almost any person who may need them. It is also the policy to send publications free of cost in special cases to actual workers in many fields of inquiry.

Another important way of bringing publications into the hands of the public free of cost is the legislative enactments which provide for depositing Government documents in public libraries throughout the country.

Under proper restrictions Government documents are forwarded by mail without payment of postage, the use of this franking privilege being provided for by act of Congress; violations of its proper use being punishable by fine.

In connection with the question of the sale of documents and method of purchase, the following quotations from information circulated by the Superintendent of Documents are of interest:

"The Superintendent of Documents is authorized to sell at cost any public document in his charge, the distribution of which is not otherwise provided for. Only one copy can be sold to the same person, excepting Members of Congress, or to libraries or schools.

"Documents can not be supplied free to individuals [by the Superintendent of Documents], nor can they be forwarded in advance of payment.

"The accumulation of publications in . . . [the office of the Superintendent of Documents] amounts to several millions of which about 700,000 are assorted, forming the sales stock, and covering nearly every important department, bureau, and series. Many rare books are included, but under the law all must be sold 'at cost,' regardless of their age or scarcity. Of many of the most valuable works only one or two copies remain.

"In ordering [from the Superintendent of Documents], it should be borne in mind that most of the books have been in stock some time, and are apt to be shop-worn. In filling orders, however, the best copy available is sent.

"This Office possesses the most complete collection of U. S. Government publications in the world, and employs several document experts in reference work. Information regarding public documents will gladly be supplied.

"As the sales office for Government publications, we are anxious to inform the people how and where to secure documents they may desire.

"Lists . . . on various subjects, will be issued from time to time for free distribution. No general price list of public docu-

ments is at present available, but lists on special subjects will be furnished on application.

"Remittances should be made to the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., by postal money order, express order, or New York draft. Currency may be sent at owner's risk. Canadian postal notes will be accepted only when the name of the issuing office is plainly stamped on the face of the note. If postage stamps are pasted on, the note will be returned.

"Postage stamps, foreign money, uncertified checks, defaced or slick coin will positively not be accepted.

"No charge is made for postage on documents forwarded to points in the United States, Guam, Hawaii, Philippine Islands, Porto Rico, or to Canada, Cuba, or Mexico. To other countries the regular rate of postage is charged, and remittances must cover such postage."

The Superintendent of Documents issues a Monthly Catalogue which gives a complete list of U. S. Government publications of each month, including those of the President, both Houses of Congress, the Executive Departments, Library of Congress, Smithsonian Institution, and Bureau of American Republics. Each number has a preface entitled "Notes of General Interest," in which comment is made on the most notable publications listed therein.

The Monthly Catalogue is sent to each Senator, Representative, Delegate, and Officer in Congress, to designated depositories and State and Territorial libraries, to substantially all Government authors, and to as many school, college, and public libraries as the limited edition will supply.

"Subscription price to individuals, \$1.10 a year. Back numbers can not be supplied.

"Beginning with the fiscal year 1909, there will be a cumulative index to the Monthly Catalogue for half-yearly periods. That is, the August number will contain an index to the July and August numbers, the September number will index three numbers, and so on until December. The June number will contain an index for the year."

For many years it has been the policy of the General Government to deposit its publications with selected libraries in different parts of the country. There are now 615 such libraries representing practically all regions of the United States. These

libraries are designated by Congressmen, and may be changed, so it follows that many libraries have only fractions of sets of the Government publications. If the intention of those responsible for this method of depositing Government documents were carried out, it would be possible for a person in any part of the United States to consult at some library in his vicinity any Government document which he wished to see, but it is too often the case that on receipt at a library Government documents are stored in some lumber room or disposed of in some similar way. Perhaps this is natural, for their very quantity is an embarrassment unless a library is unusually well equipped with a staff of cataloguers and other workers, and it is true of these documents, as perhaps of no other group of publications, that full classification and indexing are needed if the material contained in the volumes or pamphlets is to be accessible. For instance, the "sheep set" of documents, so designated from the fact that it was for many years bound in sheep skin, contains the documents and reports of the Senate and House, the annual reports and yearbooks of different departments and Geological Survey bulletins, and much other matter. From these statements it is apparent that no casual examination of the volumes would give an idea of the extent and character of the material which they contain. It is a great help to workers to know that the document index which is published for each session of every Congress contains a full index of the material included in the corresponding volumes of the sheep set. Furthermore, the Superintendent of Documents now publishes a "Document Catalogue" which appears as a document of the House of Representatives. On the title page of the last volume, which appeared in 1908 as Document No. 483, Fifty-eighth Congress, Third Session, House of Representatives, the title is as follows: "Catalogue of Public Documents of the Fifty-eighth Congress and of Other Departments of the Government of the United States for the Period from July 1, 1903, to June 30, 1905." The scope of the volume is indicated by the introductory paragraphs of the preface which are as follows:

"This, the seventh number of the Document Catalogue (Comprehensive Index), includes all documents and reports submitted to Congress, March 5, 1903, to March 4, 1905, without regard to the time when they were printed, and, in addition thereto, all publications of the Executive Departments, bureaus,

and offices of the Government issued during the two fiscal years July 1, 1903, to June 30, 1905.

It would be too much to expect that any ordinary reader would realize that under the name "Documents and Reports of Congress," which is the official title of the sheep set, would be found such a wide variety of articles as is the case, many of them of permanent value, others of current interest to general readers, and many of great value for the specialists in a large variety of lines. It is with a view to rendering such papers accessible that the Superintendent of Documents is issuing the various sorts of information already referred to.

THE WHITE HOUSE.

The documents which emanate from the White House are in the nature of things chiefly concerned with matters directly connected with the President and his official activities. It is not unusual, however, to find that such papers contain data of interest from the standpoint of the subject of Home Economics. For instance, the messages of the President to Congress often include matter of value regarding questions affecting the home life of every family.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND THE POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

The Department of Justice and the Post-Office Department issue many documents but they are in the main concerned with the specific work of these Departments and with topics of interest to students of history, law, and other such subjects, rather than to students of Home Economics. The Department of Justice has, however, in recent years devoted much time to questions concerned with the national pure food law and its application. The opinions and decisions of the Attorney-General on such topics are matters which interest the consumer of food products as well as the manufacturer and distributor.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

The other branches of the General Government are those whose work is more likely to be of interest to students of Home Economics, and in the nature of things the Department of Agriculture is perhaps first in the list as it is concerned with the production, protection, and distribution of food products, both

animal and vegetable, with fibers, with timber, and in general, with the raw materials and many commercial products which pertain to the home and its problems. Furthermore, the Department of Agriculture has important educational functions and is the center of the experiment station movement, a movement of the greatest importance in accumulating data and in bringing the results of scientific investigation and experiment directly to the person who needs them.

The main Divisions of the Department of Agriculture are the Office of the Secretary, the Weather Bureau, the Bureau of Plant Industry, the Bureau of Animal Industry, the Office of Experiment Stations, the Forest Service, the Bureau of Entomology, the Bureau of Chemistry, the Bureau of Soils, the Bureau of Biological Survey, the Office of Public Roads, the Bureau of Statistics, and the Division of Publications.

The Library of the Department should also be mentioned as it is of the greatest importance to the experimental and other work of the various bureaus. All of the bureaus and other main subdivisions of the Department of Agriculture issue publications which are of interest to students of Home Economics.

A list of titles which the Superintendent of Documents has published of Department of Agriculture publications now obtainable by purchase, arranged by bureaus, is well worth reading and doubtless it would surprise even those who are tolerably familiar with the scientific work carried on under Government auspices to see how many papers of interest on chemistry, forestry, plant production, the inspection of food materials, the nutrition of man, the feeding of animals, food legislation, statistics of agricultural products of all sorts, and papers on insects, birds, mammals, and other topics are being issued by this Department.

Much more extensive is the list of publications of the Department of Agriculture (1862-1902) with an analytical index which was published by the Superintendent of Documents, which is a book of 623 pages. Entries are arranged by bureaus and also alphabetically by title and author. Library classification numbers are given and the volume as a whole serves as a check list of Department of Agriculture publications for the period included.

It is perhaps true that as sources of information on historical, statistical and descriptive lines Government documents would prove equally useful for students of Domestic Science and Do-

mestic Art, the two main branches of the general subject of Home Economics, but whether or not this is literally the case, it is certainly true that the amount of data available on both subjects is very large. In the case of specific information it seems certain that more is available on the subject of food and other Domestic Science subjects than is the case with those which pertain to Domestic Art, and this is due in large measure to the fact that the chemistry of food and related subjects has been for so many years one of the principal lines of activity of the Bureau of Chemistry, and too the studies of human nutrition have been systematically undertaken for many years by the Office of Experiment Stations.

In the Office of Experiment Stations bulletins which have been published in connection with the nutrition investigations are naturally first in interest to students of nutrition. These include the technical reports of investigations as well as popular summaries based on the work. There are about 60 technical bulletins and 50 popular publications, most of which are still available. The technical bulletins may be purchased through the Superintendent of Documents as the small edition provided for distribution by the Department of Agriculture has in many cases been exhausted. The popular summaries of nutrition subjects have appeared in what are termed Farmers' Bulletins, and also as reprints, separates and circulars, and in so far as they are available are distributed gratuitously. As is the case with other series of publications of the Office of Experiment Stations, lists of nutrition bulletins are published for free distribution, which give short summaries of their contents, the price and method of distribution, as well as bibliographical data. The Superintendent of Documents has also published a list of Government documents dealing with food which includes the titles of the Office of Experiment Stations nutrition publications and others. The bulletins of the Agricultural Education Division of the Office and of the Farmers' Institute Division are of interest from the standpoint of pedagogics and general educational subjects, while the bulletins of the Divisions of Irrigation and Drainage supply data on a variety of topics concerned with the conservation of water and its use for agricultural purposes in both arid and humid regions.

The Office of Experiment Stations nutrition publications represent the results of the experimentation and collection of

general data carried on under the nutrition investigations first authorized by Congress in 1894. At its inception this work was assigned to the Office of Experiment Stations under the direction of Professor W. O. Atwater and for a time naturally centered at Middletown, Conn., where Professor Atwater was head of the Chemical Department of Wesleyan University. For ten years or more, cooperation with agricultural experiment stations, agricultural colleges, philanthropic organizations and other institutions was an important feature of the work and notably increased the total output. The investigations are now centered in Washington where adequate quarters have been provided in the new Department of Agriculture Building and the respiration calorimeter which was in Middletown, Conn., has been rebuilt with a number of important improvements.

The nutrition investigations have included studies of experimental methods, the development and operation of the bomb calorimeter, the development and operation of the respiration calorimeter, studies of the composition and relative nutritive value of different foods, dietary studies with individuals and groups living under a variety of circumstances, digestion experiments with different food materials and food combinations, studies of factors which affect digestion, experiments on the metabolism of nitrogen, and on the balance of income and outgo of matter and energy; studies of the changes and losses due to different cooking processes, particularly with reference to meat and some vegetables, special studies of the nutritive value and digestibility of bread of different kinds and of other cereal foods, special studies of the digestibility and nutritive value of cheese and of fruits and nuts, studies of food supplies of different localities, the effects of muscular work of different kinds and varying intensity on metabolism, the effects of mental work on metabolism, studies of iron and other ash constituents of food, and the place of ash constituents in the diet and studies of institution dietetics and household problems.

The technical nutrition bulletins report the results of these investigations. Titles selected as typical of these publications follow: The Composition of American Food Materials; Dietary Studies at the University of Tennessee; Description of the Respiration Calorimeter and Experiments on the Conservation of Energy in the Human Body; Report on the Digestibility and

Nutritive Value of Meat; Iron in Food and Its Functions in Nutrition; Studies of the Effects of Different Methods of Cooking Starch; and The Influence of Muscular and Mental Work on Metabolism.

The general summaries which have been based on the investigations and the data collected in connection with them have been published very largely in the Farmers' Bulletins though sometimes in circulars and sometimes as reprints from the annual reports of the Office of Experiment Stations, the Yearbooks of the Department of Agriculture, and similar sources. These popular publications discuss such subjects as meat, milk, fish, eggs, fruit, vegetables, sugar, cereal foods, nuts, the general theories and problems of nutrition, conveniences for the home and similar topics.

It is perhaps not too much to say that the nutrition investigations of the Office of Experiment Stations, both in the extent and variety of the problems studied and in the results which have been obtained, represent the largest organized enterprise in this or in any other country for the specific purpose of studying such questions. The data here presented show that the bulletins and other published material issued as a result of this enterprise are numerous and include a wide variety of topics. Owing to the scarcity of general text and reference books on nutrition subjects, the nutrition publications of the Office of Experiment Stations have been widely used in schools, colleges, medical schools, etc., to take their place. Furthermore, even a casual examination of journals and books which are published on these subjects will show that they have been freely quoted by writers on nutrition topics in the United States and other countries.

A publication of the Office of Experiment Stations which should be consulted regularly by all teachers of Home Economics is the Experiment Station Record, a monthly abstract journal which summarizes the publications of the agricultural experiment stations, and in addition, reviews the scientific literature published in all countries which would be of interest to the investigators in the agricultural colleges and experiment stations. The abstracts are classified under the following divisions: Agricultural Chemistry, Foods—Human Nutrition, Animal Production, Dairy Farming—Dairying—Agrotechny, Meteorology—Water, Soils—Fertilizers, Agricultural Botany, Field Crops,

Horticulture, Forestry, Diseases of Plants, Economic Zoology—Entomology, Veterinary Medicine, Rural Engineering, Rural Economics, Agricultural Education, and some miscellaneous topics. In addition to the abstracts, the Experiment Station Record contains editorial discussions of scientific, educational, and other topics, and personal and other notes of interest to experiment station workers. Owing to a limited edition the Experiment Station Record is sent free to few individuals other than college and station workers, unless there is some special reason for it. It is distributed quite generally to libraries where it may of course be consulted by students. However, as is the case with most Government documents, the Experiment Station Record may be purchased for a sum designed simply to cover the cost of publication, in this case at present \$1.50 a year. The first number of the Record appeared in September, 1889, and it is now closing (1909) its 20th volume. Each volume includes detailed indexes and a general index has been published of volumes 1 to 12. A set of the Experiment Station Record constitutes in itself a very valuable reference library.

It has been the policy of the Office of Experiment Stations to issue lists of the publications of its different divisions and to keep these lists up to date. Thus, a list of the nutrition publications of the Office has appeared at frequent intervals, as have also lists of the publications of the Division of Irrigation and Drainage, of Farmers' Institutes, and of Agricultural Education.

The Farmers' Bulletins, a series of publications intended for free distribution, which originated in the Office of Experiment Stations, and has become a general series of the Department of Agriculture, are of great importance and value since they are designed to summarize in non-technical form the results of investigations on all topics concerned with the general subject of agriculture. Of these bulletins over 350 have appeared to date. The Farmers' Bulletins which deal with food and nutrition have already been mentioned. Others of special interest to students of Home Economics are those dealing with insect pests, with weeds, with the cultivation of vegetables and flowers, and other gardening topics, the use of alcohol for fuel, flax and other fibers, forest planting and farm management, and so on.

Included in the series of Farmers' Bulletins is the sub-series entitled "Experiment Station Work," each number of which

contains 10 or 12 summaries of recently published articles chiefly those of the agricultural experiment stations. Food and nutrition topics, house construction and home betterment, the cultivation of farm and garden crops, water supply for farms and homes, and many other similar questions are included among the topics discussed.

Lists and indexes of the Farmers' Bulletins have been published and these as well as the bulletins themselves may be secured on request from the Division of Publications of the Department of Agriculture or from Members of Congress.

The publications of the agricultural experiment stations are in a sense Government documents, as the institutions which issue them were established in each State and Territory by the General Government and receive funds from the General Government for their support. They are not Government documents, however, in the same sense as the publications already referred to, since they are published and sent out locally, though under franking privilege, while the Government documents, as the term is ordinarily used, almost without exception bear the imprint of the Government Printing Office in Washington. With respect to experiment station publications, there are a few exceptions in the method of publication. Thus, the publications of the Alaska, Porto Rico, and Hawaii Agricultural Experiment Stations are under the law issued as regular Government documents from the Office of Experiment Stations.

It is almost needless to say that the publications of the agricultural experiment stations contain an enormous amount of data on food and nutrition, food inspection, physiology, hygiene, dairying, the production, inspection and marketing of farm crops, fruits, poultry and meat products, and on many other topics pertaining to sanitation, construction of buildings, maintaining forests, and the destruction of insect and animal pests. Of special interest are the numerous publications of the Connecticut (Storrs) Experiment Station which contain papers by Professor W. O. Atwater and his associates on human nutrition, and which are valuable not only for their subject-matter but also for their relation to the development of this subject in the United States. The Office of Experiment Stations issues a monthly list of titles of experiment station publications and in the Experiment Station Record, as already stated, reviews all the publications as

issued. A general list of experiment station publications and of Office of Experiment Station documents, complete to date, was included in a bulletin of the Office of Experiment Stations entitled *The Agricultural Experiment Stations of the United States* which was published in 1900, and was also issued as a separate. The experiment station publications are distributed on request by the station directors, preference being given to residents of the State in which a particular station is located, and with the exception of the Alaska, Hawaii, and Porto Rico publications are not distributed by the General Government.

Index cards prepared by the Department of Agriculture Library and issued by the Library of Congress give titles and other bibliographical data of publications, as they are acquired, while the index cards issued by the Office of Experiment Stations give brief notes concerning practically all the work published by the agricultural experiment stations. Both the Library cards and the Office of Experiment Station cards (which are sold for a low price) are classified and the cards for each class may be purchased separately. The Library of Congress Bulletin of Card Distribution Section gives full data regarding the Library cards. Those of the Office of Experiment Stations are fully described in a circular of the Office. In the case of the Office of Experiment Stations set, students of nutrition often order those cards which have to do with food and nutrition of man, agricultural chemistry, dairying, and animal production, and occasionally horticulture and field crops.

For many years the Bureau of Chemistry has been studying problems concerned with the composition of food materials, with the production of sugar and other food products, with the elaboration and perfection of methods pertaining to the examination and analysis of foods and other agricultural materials and with other important problems.

The Association of Official Agricultural Chemists has since its organization been particularly concerned with devising, testing, and comparing methods for the analysis of foods and other agricultural materials. The proceedings of the organization have appeared as publications of the Bureau of Chemistry and it is not too much to say that this Bureau has been a factor second to none in these investigations of standard analytical methods. The Home Economics student who takes up chemical work in

any of the lines relating to his subject is dependent in large measure upon the work of the Bureau of Chemistry for his laboratory methods and other information, and will find the material which he seeks in many other bulletins of the Bureau as well as those which contain the proceedings of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists. The passage of the National Pure Food Law has added very largely to the work of the Bureau of Chemistry, both from the standpoint of investigation and inspection. Of the recent investigations of the Bureau may be mentioned the studies of the effects of the various commercial preservatives on general metabolism and health, and the studies of the effects of cold storage on meat, poultry, and other food products. As illustrations of the wide scope of the work of this Bureau, the following titles of publications of interest to students of Home Economics may be noted: Tea, Coffee, and Cocoa Preparations; Extent and Character of Food and Drug Adulteration; Compilations of Food and Drug Laws; Chemical Analysis and Composition of American Honeys; Studies of Apples and numerous other studies of the chemical changes which accompany the ripening and storage of fruits; Meat Extracts and Similar Preparations; Some Forms of Food Adulteration and Simple Methods for Their Detection; and Official and Provisional Methods of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists.

The work of the Bureau of Animal Industry is very varied, including investigation and experiments in biological chemistry, dairying, animal feeding and other subjects, as well as a large amount of inspection work concerned with meat and meat products designed for domestic and foreign trade. There is perhaps no division of this Bureau which does not at some time publish work of interest to the student of Home Economics. As indications of the activities of the Bureau, the following publications may be cited: Dairy Schools: Information Concerning the Angora Goat [and Mohair Wool]; Investigations on the Manufacture and Curing of Cheese; The Available Energy of Red Clover Hay [Experiments with the Respiration Calorimeter]; The Federal Meat Inspection Service and Varieties of Cheese.

In general, it may be said that the Bureau of Plant Industry is concerned with the study of problems pertaining to the production and protection of plant crops and to the economic management of farm problems, particularly as related to the production

of plant products, and with other problems which have to do fundamentally with plant life in its relation to agriculture. The list of publications which interest students of Home Economics is a long one, including as it does botanical studies of a great variety of plants, studies of cotton, flax, and other fiber plants, of the cultivation of farm and garden crops and the combating of plant diseases and other questions. An idea of the work of this Bureau as it interests the Home Economics movement may be gained from the following titles: The Commercial Status of Durum Wheat; Wild Rice—Its Uses and Propagation; The Avocado—A Salad Fruit from the Tropics; Tuna [Cactus Fruit] as Food for Man; The Mulberry and Other Silk Worm Food Plants; and The Cold Storage of Small Fruits. Like most of the other bureaus, the Bureau of Plant Industry has prepared lists of its publications.

The Bureau of Soils is engaged in soil surveys of the United States and in physical and chemical investigations of the nature of soils with special reference to agricultural problems. Whenever questions of the nature and character of agricultural soils arise, the student should consult the records of the work of this Bureau.

The Forest Service has developed very greatly in the extent and importance of its work in the last 10 or 12 years. This Bureau, in addition to its important work in connection with the national forests, is engaged in studying problems connected with the growth and protection of forest trees, with the preservation and utilization of wood, the maintenance of forests, and other questions. Whenever a topic arises which concerns the general question of the management of trees, the production of lumber, the relative value of different sorts of timber for house construction, or other purposes, the bulletins and other publications of the Forest Service should be consulted.

The publications of the Weather Bureau are in the main technical and of interest chiefly to meteorologists and those interested in other questions of physical geography. It not infrequently happens, however, that some special question is considered which pertains to subjects included in Home Economics. For instance, a paper was published some years ago on the influence of high altitude, that is, diminished atmospheric pressure, upon cooking processes.

The Bureau of Statistics, as its name implies, is chiefly concerned with collecting and digesting statistical data relating to agriculture and agricultural products, and from its publications much which is of value to the Home Economics student may be secured. The Crop Reporter, a periodical publication of this Division, gives current information of a statistical nature. From time to time, the Bureau publishes bulletins on special topics which the student of Home Economics will find useful, as for instance, Meat Supply and Surplus with Consideration of Consumption and Export, which is an exhaustive summary of data regarding meat consumption, the meat trade and similar topics.

The Bureau of Entomology as a part of its work has studied insect pests and methods of destroying them. The work which has to do with flies and other household insects is of particular interest to students of home problems but there is a great amount of other work to which attention should also be directed; for instance, the studies of insects injurious to farm and garden crops.

The Bureau of Biological Survey is investigating problems which pertain to the distribution of animal life in the United States and the life history of birds and mammals in order that useful species may be protected and those which are harmful destroyed or kept within bonds.

The Division of Publications exercises editorial functions and supervises the publication and distribution of the bulletins and other documents of the Department of Agriculture. The Yearbook of the Department, to which all the bureaus and other divisions contribute, is edited and published by the Division of Publications. The Yearbook is published for general distribution and is designed to give in popular form summaries of agricultural topics and reports of progress along agricultural lines. It may be obtained through members of Congress. An Index for the Yearbook has been issued recently. Numerous indexes of Department publications have been issued by the Division of Publications which should be consulted by the student of Home Economics; for instance, the Index of Farmers' Bulletins Nos. 1 to 250, which was published as Bulletin 8 of the Division of Publications. Mention should also be made of Division of Publication Circular 2 which contains a list of publications for free distribution. Other important indexes are the

Index to Literature Relating to Animal Industry in the Publications of the Department of Agriculture, 1837-1898, leaflets giving lists of Farmers' Bulletins and other publications. The division of Publications also issues a Monthly List of Publications giving titles of current bulletins, circulars, etc., issued by the Department. This list is sent free to all who request it and should be in the hands of every student of Home Economics as it affords a ready means of keeping track of the Department of Agriculture publications.

STATE, WAR, AND NAVY DEPARTMENTS.

For many years the State Department published the Consular and Trade Reports but as noted elsewhere, this is now done by the Department of Commerce and Labor, the change having been made in 1903. The material which appears in these reports, however, is collected and put in shape for publication by the Bureau of Trade Relations of the State Department. As compared with the other executive branches of the Government, the State Department has issued few publications and the bulk of them, as would be expected, deal with treaties and other questions of national and international policy.

The War Department has published many bulletins and reports dealing with army rations, equipment of troops and similar topics, and has also studied matters of more special interest to Home Economics students. For instance, the tests of specially constructed fireless cookers suited to army use described in the reports of the Commissary-General, the accounts of the work of the schools for army cooks, discussions of diet in tropical regions, and other similar material may be mentioned. The Manual of the Subsistence Department United States Army, recently published by the Office of the Commissary-General, is an example of another kind of publication dealing with food problems. This takes up subsistence stores, ration issue, kitchen cars for army use, and related questions.

The Library of the Surgeon-General's Office of the War Department contains one of the most complete collections of medical literature in the United States, and indeed in the world. On its shelves may be found the bulk of the medical journals and reference works of all countries, as well as special publications dealing with sanitation, hygiene, nutrition and related ques-

tions. The Index Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office is one of the most valuable of reference works and may be consulted in most large libraries. This Catalogue comprising to date some 29 volumes, contains both subjects and author entries not only of books and pamphlets, but also of many articles in periodicals, publications of learned societies, etc. The student who has in hand a subject for special study or investigation will always do well to consult these volumes with a good chance of finding something which pertains to the question in which he is interested.

The statements which have been made regarding the work of the War Department in its relation to food and nutrition may also be applied to the Navy Department. The proper feeding of the naval forces and the provisioning of ships are very important problems and the numerous publications dealing with rations for the Navy and related matters are of interest not only in themselves, but also as a contribution to the general question of food requirements and dietary standards. Cookbooks suited to the special needs of army and navy cooks have been issued by both the War and the Navy Department. A recent mess book, designed for cooks in the Navy, gives a large number of recipes in quantities suitable for 100 men. Not infrequently the publications of the Navy Department contain useful information on some special food topic. As an instance may be cited an account published in Memoranda for the Information of Officers of the Pay Corps, Commanding Officers of Ships and Commandants of Stations, 1908, No. 85, of tests of evaporated eggs, milk and vegetables. Investigations in hygiene carried on by both the War Department and the Navy Department are of general interest as are the investigations which concern materials used for clothing and for other purposes.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

The Department of the Interior includes a number of bureaus or other sub-divisions which issue publications of interest to Home Economics students.

The Patent Office, one of its important divisions, prepares printed specifications of patents which it has granted but these though sold under certain conditions, are not designed for general distribution. It is often possible, however, to consult

such publications and they frequently afford reliable information regarding some manufactured product or the machinery used in its manufacture which would be difficult to obtain except from this source or from *The Official Gazette* which is issued monthly by the Patent Office and contains condensed descriptions of all patents issued, trade-marks licensed, etc.

For many years what is now the Department of Agriculture was a part of the Department of the Interior, and the earlier work of the Department of Agriculture appears in Patent Office Reports.

The Geological Survey and the Reclamation Service, which are important subdivisions of the Department of the Interior, have published a very large number of important bulletins and reports dealing with mineral resources of the United States, engineering problems, and other topics included in these fields of activity. Of special interest to students of Home Economics are the publications which deal with coal, fuel tests, minerals and metals, water supplies, marble, granite, and other building materials and similar questions.

The Bureau of Education of the Department of the Interior was established to collect and distribute information regarding educational questions in the United States and its publications are of great value to educators and students. In many of them statistics and other information can be obtained regarding the Home Economics movement in the United States and other data which it would not be possible to obtain elsewhere. *The Daily Meals of School Children* by Caroline L. Hunt which appeared in Bureau of Education Bulletin 1909, No. 3 may be mentioned.

The Office of Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior supervises affairs connected with the American Indians, and a document issued by this Office which is of special interest in this discussion is *Teaching the Rudiments of Cooking in the Class Room: Primary Methods and Outlines for the Use of Teachers in Indian Schools*, which appeared in 1906.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

The publications of the Census Office, which is one of the principal sub-divisions of the Department of Commerce and Labor, contain a very great amount of data often difficult to obtain elsewhere regarding processes of manufacture, the

character of the manufactured products, the growth and distribution of industries, and on similar topics, in addition to strictly statistical matter. As illustrations of valuable special papers issued by the Census Office may be mentioned articles, which appeared in a volume^a published in 1908, on textiles, cotton manufactured products, wool manufacturers, silk manufactured products, buttons, oil cloth and linoleum, butter, cheese, and condensed mill flour and grist mill products, canning and preserving, rice cleaning and polishing, slaughtering and meat packing, cotton-seed products, lumber and timber products, and so on. Some of these articles, for instance that on canning and preserving, include an historical and descriptive section which is of decided interest, or a section on the description and use of the products as in the case of the article on cotton-seed. Not all volumes of these Census Office reports would prove of equal interest to students of Home Economics but whenever a question arises connected with foods, textiles, or other commercial products on which information is desired, it is well worth while to look in the Census publications for it is more than likely that they will supply information which it would be difficult to find elsewhere.

The Bureau of Statistics of Labor of the Department of Commerce and Labor has studied a great variety of problems relating to food supply, the cost of living, the distribution and expenditure of incomes, and other related topics, and the publications of this Bureau should always be consulted by a student or investigator who is interested in such problems.

The Bureau of Statistics of Labor was established a number of years before the Department of Commerce and Labor of which it is now a part. Cooperating with this Bureau, Professor Atwater (1888-1892) carried on dietary studies of factory operatives and other families in different localities and the nutrition investigations of the Department of Agriculture, may in a way, be looked upon as an outgrowth of this work and that which was undertaken for the Smithsonian Institution (see p. 249) and Fish Commission.

The Fish Commission is now a part of the Department of Commerce and Labor. Many of its publications are of particular

^a Special Reports of the Census Office—Manufactures, pt. 3. Selected Industries, 1905.

interest. It may be noted that Professor Atwater's studies of the composition of food fishes and marine invertebrates, were undertaken in part under the auspices of the Fish Commission. Numerous publications of this Commission contain statistical and other data regarding food fishes and fishing industries. From time to time other subjects are included. As an illustration may be mentioned a report on marine algae and their possible value as food products, for making glue, and for other purposes.

The Daily and Monthly Consular and Trade Reports formerly issued by the State Department but now by the Bureau of Manufactures of the Department of Commerce and Labor, contain much matter of interest in connection with the lines of work now under consideration. These publications are made up of short summaries, usually on current topics submitted by U. S. Consuls and Consular Agents. To cite a few articles at random, mention may be made of Food in Asiatic Turkey, Japanese Labor—Comparative Efficiency, and of Water Aspirators for Homes—Simple Devices for Cleaning.

The Bureau of Standards, which is also a part of the Department of Commerce and Labor, carries on important research work in chemistry and physics in addition to its standardization of scientific instruments and other work which naturally pertains to a bureau of this character. The reports of the scientific investigations referred to appear in the Bulletin of the Bureau of Standards which is issued as a periodical, and in other Bureau publications.

THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

The greater part of the work of the Treasury Department is concerned with the financial questions of the United States, the customs service, the auditing of accounts of the different departments, and related matters. The attention of students of Home Economics is especially directed to the work of the Supervising Architect's Office, the work of the Office of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, and the work of the Bureau of Public Health and Marine Hospital Service. In connection with the Internal Revenue work, much has been published regarding the legal status of foods and beverages. Such publications as the Gaugers' Manual include tabular matter of interest to analysts.

The following titles may serve to illustrate the importance of publications issued by the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service of the United States and the Hygienic Laboratory which is a part of this Bureau: Milk in Its Relations to Public Health; The Thermal Death Point of Pathogenic Micro-organisms in Milk; Disinfection Against Mosquitoes; and Pellagra, A Precis, which discusses this disease attributed to eating spoiled Indian corn.

CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS.

The Library of Congress has one of the most important collections of books, periodicals, and documents in the world. Those who have the opportunity can freely consult its great collections in the public reading room. As a part of its work the Library of Congress publishes entry cards of all material which it receives which give title, author, and other bibliographical data. These cards are classified and sold in sections. By the purchase of sections which deal with food and nutrition, textile fabrics, and other Home Economics topics, it is possible to secure much valuable information regarding sources of information. Catalogue cards prepared by the Bureau of Education, Geological Survey, and Department of Agriculture are also published and are for sale by the Library of Congress. They cover publications of the Geological Survey and articles and reports of the Bureau of Education, as well as other publications received at these libraries. The subject headings on these Library of Congress cards are of use in determining the character of the publications more definitely than by title alone.

The publications of the National Academy of Science appear as Senate Documents and some of them are valuable to students of Home Economics. Mention may be made of the paper on bacteriological examination of the soil, and on that dealing with respiration calorimeter experiments by Atwater and Benedict.

Special reports of committees, commissions, and other bodies are often issued as Government documents, the source of publication varying with the nature of the inquiry and other circumstances. Thus, the report on the occurrence and spread of typhoid fever during the Spanish War, which contains a great deal of value in relation to home hygiene, the dangers from flies and dust in relation to disease, and similar topics were published as a

report by the War Department. The recent reports of the President's Home Commission appeared as a Senate Document of the 60th Congress, 2d Session. This contains data on industrial hygiene and social betterment. Special subjects included in the latter section are alimentation and foods, good food at reasonable cost, food and home betterment, sociological studies of 1,251 subjects, the business relation of wage earners to the scale of wages and cost of living, as well as other articles which might be mentioned.

The Report of the Country Life Commission which appeared also as a Senate Document, is a publication of special interest as it summarizes the results of the work of this Commission regarding life in rural regions and the improvement of conditions where this is needed.

It is difficult even for those who have unusual facilities for knowing about such matters to keep track of Government documents of this class since oftentimes the title does not give information as to the contents of the publication. In so far as possible, articles which have to do with food or other Home Economics topics which appear in such publications, are usually included among those noted in the Experiment Station Record.

INDEPENDENT AND MISCELLANEOUS INSTITUTIONS AND COMMISSIONS.

In addition to the Government Divisions which have been mentioned, there are a number of commissions, etc., which are classed in the Congressional Directory as "Independent and Miscellaneous." Of these the Government Printing Office and one of its main divisions, the Office of the Superintendent of Documents, have already been mentioned. The Smithsonian Institution, the Commission of the Philippine Islands, the International Bureau of American Republics, and the Civil Service Commission should also be noted in this discussion of Government documents and their use.

The Smithsonian Institution with its subdivisions, notably the National Museum and the Bureau of American Ethnology, is interested in so many lines of work that a great variety of topics have been included in its publications. Many of these articles are of great value and importance. Of Smithsonian Institution publications of special interest to students of Home Economics

may be mentioned: The Select Bibliographies of Chemistry; Oils, Mediums and Varnishes Used in the Painting of Pictures; Order of Development of the Primal Shaping Arts; The Atmosphere in Relation to Human Life and Health; and many papers on insects, birds, mammals, etc.

The following will serve as examples of National Museum publications which are of interest in connection with Home Economics: Prehistoric Art; Preparation of Microscopical Mounts of Vegetable Textile Fibers; Primitive Travel and Transportation; Wokas, a Primitive Food of the Klamath Indians; and numerous papers on collecting and preserving specimens of various sorts.

From the publications of the Bureau of Ethnology the following titles have been selected: A Study of Textile Art in Its Relation to the Development of Form and Ornament; Prehistoric Textile Art of the Eastern United States; Origin and Development of Form and Ornament in Ceramic Art and The Wild Rice Gatherers of the Upper Lakes, A Study in American Primitive Economics.

The Smithsonian Institution, the National Museum and the Bureau of American Ethnology all issue lists of their publications.

It is of interest to note in this connection that Professor Atwater's earlier studies of nutrition, undertaken before the establishment of the nutrition enterprise in the Office of Experiment Stations, were carried on in part for the National Museum. A notable piece of work was that which had to do with the composition of food materials, particularly food fishes. He also arranged illustrative material for the Museum relating to human food and assisted in the classification of material pertaining to this subject.

The Civil Service Commission has charge of the examinations and other similar matters pertaining to appointments under the Government Classified Service. As many students of Home Economics and related lines of work have such positions in mind, the publications of the Civil Service Commission are naturally of use to them.

The International Bureau of American Republics publishes a monthly bulletin which contains articles on plant products, industrial development, municipal organization, geographical, statistical, and many other articles concerning the republics of

North, South and Central America. An index to the monthly bulletin is issued regularly.

In the above enumeration and discussion of Government documents of use to students of Home Economics no attempt has been made to include everything which could be mentioned. The purpose has rather been to present enough data to demonstrate the fact that this class of publications has contributed much that is fundamental to the question of Home Economics from the standpoint of scientific data, historical and other general matter and pedagogical methods. Many works of reference and many scientific journals which are concerned with Home Economics are not infrequently difficult of access to the student in institutions of learning as university librarians in the past have not generally appreciated their importance and so have not endeavored specially to collect them. From this standpoint the Government documents have an added value since they are accessible in most university libraries and copies can often be obtained for school and class room use in addition to those in the Library.

In this discussion nothing has been said about the publications of the several States which are also Government documents in the sense that they are issued under State auspices. The reports of boards of health and State dairy and food commissions, State departments of agriculture, statistics and education, of charitable reformatory and penal institutions, and so on, which have been printed and distributed under State auspices afford a large amount of information which is of interest to students of Home Economics. This class of literature is indeed so extensive and varied that it deserves discussion by itself, and the same may be said of the publications of municipalities which include among other documents, reports of city boards of health, superintendents of public institutions, supervision work connected with the manufacture of food and other products, and documents dealing with a variety of other fields of activity.

Librarians of university libraries, particularly those connected with agricultural colleges and experiment stations, and of public libraries are every year recognizing more fully the importance of Government documents and the vast amount of information which they supply on scientific, statistical, historical and other topics, as well as on the activities of the various

branches into which the Government is divided. Students in Home Economics Departments who make use of their reference catalogues will find it well worth while to learn something of the general classifications of Government documents and the character of the publications issued by the different departments, bureaus, etc. It is suggested that it would be well worth while for a group of students, preferably from the most advanced classes in the Home Economics Department, to take up as a part of their regular work the study of this question. Such work is greatly facilitated by the use of the Monthly Catalogue of the Superintendent of Documents, the Monthly List of Experiment Station Publications, the Monthly List of Department Publications, the Experiment Station Record and Experiment Station Work. By enlisting the cooperation of the librarian of their institution it should be possible to make an arrangement by which all Government documents received by the library may be examined. The students engaged in this work could prepare for class room use, lists of references to articles which in their judgment are of interest in connection with the Home Economics work. Such a plan is valuable not only for the information it will supply, but also for the training it will afford in the handling of literary material. It has been said that a university education is a success if it accomplishes two things, namely, if it teaches a student to read and to think. Any plan therefore, is to be advocated which will help students to use their libraries as mines from which information can be obtained in quantities proportional to the work involved, and not simply as places in which books suggested by an instructor may be consulted.

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